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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
MAINE FOREST SERVICE
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

PERMIT

FORESTRY OPERATIONS PERMIT FOP 15003

The staff of the Maine Forest Service, after reviewing the application and supporting documents submitted by American Forest Management for Forestry Operations Permit FOP 15003, finds the following facts:

1. Applicant: Harriet Powers
PO Box 385
Stratton, Maine 04982
2. Agent: Bill Haslam
American Forest Management
PO Box 978
Farmington, Maine 04938
3. Date of Completed Application: November 09, 2015
4. Location of Proposal: Coplin Plantation (T1R3 WBKP), Franklin County
5. Zoning: (P-FW) – Fish and Wildlife Protection Subdistrict
6. Approximate Time Period of Operations: December 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016

Proposal

7. The applicant proposes to conduct a timber harvest on approximately 16 acres of the 60 acres owned in P-FW 060033. All harvesting for this entry will take place north of the Kennebago Settlement Road.
8. The harvest will only be conducted during snow covered or frozen ground conditions.
9. The applicant proposes that two clearcut harvests be made in this portion of the P-FW, one 5 acres and one 11 acres, removing all stems larger than four inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet above the surface of the ground.
10. The applicant proposes to manage the P-FW on this ownership on a 75 year rotation with 15 year re-entry cycles (or 20% of the area each cycle). Due to the high volume of over mature and decadent aspen and declining balsam fir in these two areas the applicant proposes to harvest 30 percent of the total area in the P-FW for this entry instead of limiting the area harvested to 20 percent.

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11. The applicant proposes to buffer the brook running through this portion of the property and dividing the two clearcut areas on both sides with a 75 foot no- harvest buffer to protect water quality and to maintain a travel corridor to the remainder of the P-FW east and west of the harvest area.

Review Comments

12. The Maine Natural Areas Program has no record of any rare, threatened or endangered plants on the property.
13. The Regional Fisheries Biologist stated that as long as the brook was protected by a 75' buffer zone and the harvest was conducted in the winter he had no concerns.
14. The State Soils Scientist stated that as long as the harvest was conducted on snow covered or frozen ground he had no concerns.
15. The Regional Wildlife Biologist commented that this P-FW involves many landowners and has historically been one of the largest and most important deer wintering areas (zoned and un-zoned combined) in all of Region D. The Powers have a long-standing practice of providing supplemental winter food, which has caused deer to artificially concentrate on this and the ownerships adjacent to this property. This has elevated the importance of winter shelter on this as well as nearby properties.

Prescription

In order to determine the Allowable Cut, a rotation length and cutting interval needs to be determined. Because the Powers property is dominated by fir and intolerant hardwood species, a rotation length of 75 years with 15 year cutting intervals or 80 years with 10 year cutting intervals is an acceptable standard. The 75/15 option was preferred by the forester. This corresponds to 20% of the area on the Powers property which is zoned P-FW. However, due to concerns of lost volume due over-maturity, it was agreed that during the 2015 cutting interval only, volume removal could be a maximum of 30%. This would be achieved by thinning, small clearcuts, or a combination of both. The allowable cut includes volume removed for skid trails and the one proposed log landing.

The allowable cut will not exceed 30% by area, or volume removed from a stand. It will include harvesting to accommodate the log landing and skid trails.

Clearcut/OSR Method

- The forester will determine the size and location of clearcut and overstory removal harvest.
- First priority: stands with overmature hardwood overstory with well-established conifer regeneration in the understory.
- Second priority: stands with significant fir component not expected to be alive at the time of the next cutting interval.
- Stands with any cedar, spruce, and fir which is not overmature are to be avoided.
- Spacing between harvest areas must be sufficient to allow deer travel and have low probability of suffering windthrow.

- Harvesting should be dispersed over the entire ownership; however no clearcuts within 75 feet of either side of the brook or within the P-SL1 zone of the river are permitted.
- The boundary of the clearcut and OSR harvests will be designated by vertical paint stripes, minimum 24 inches long, on the bole of trees facing the harvest area. Trees used to designate the harvest boundary may not be cut.
- Any tree within the designated harvest area may be cut.
- The harvest will be laid out by a forester licensed in the State of Maine.

Additional Conditions Related to Timber Harvesting

- The allowable cut acreage will be based on 60 acres of P-FW, minus acreage that due to site is not capable of being managed for timber. The final acreage determination will be reported to the MFS and DIFW.
- Landing of logs is limited to one location within the P-FW. That will be located adjacent to the Kennebago Settlement Road and will not exceed 60 feet (W) by 150 feet (L).
- The term of the permit shall not exceed April 30, 2015.
- Any renewal of this permit is dependent on full compliance with this permit.
- Harvest operations are limited to winter conditions with fully frozen ground.
- Skid trails will be designated by the forester and will not exceed 12 feet in width.
- Trails will average no closer than 60 feet apart, as measured from outside edge to outside edge.
- There will be no winter roads within the P-FW.
- Trees will be limbed where felled.
- Reasonable care will be used to protect advanced softwood regeneration and the residual stand.
- The harvester cannot be a relative of the applicant and must have a record of no violations of MFS rules.
- MFS will conduct periodic inspections fitting their schedule and relay timely reports to DIFW. MFS will also conduct an inspection at the conclusion of the permit period and report their findings and evaluation of compliance to DIFW.
- Upon conclusion of operations the forester will provide MFS and MDIFW a map showing the location of harvests, type, and size.

Findings

13. A field visit was conducted October 14, 2015. The field visit showed that the description of the stand conditions in the permit application was accurate.
14. The applicant submitted a revised harvest plan to the MFS on November 02, 2015 which reduced the total area of the P-FW to be harvested as a result of the DIFW requirement that no more than 30 percent of the area in the P-FW be operated during this harvest entry. The revised plan meets that requirement and concentrates all the activity north of the Kennebago Settlement Road primarily due to the condition of the timber at this time.
15. There will be one yard constructed in the P-FW.
16. The harvest activity will take place on snow covered or frozen ground, and slash will be used as necessary to stabilize the harvest area.

The information provided in the application, along with an MFS inspection of the site conditions in the area to be harvested, demonstrate that the petitioner has met its burden of proof and satisfied the requirements of Chapter 27, Section 4.

Based upon the above proposal, the MFS concludes that the proposal will meet the Criteria for Approval, 12 M.R.S. §Section 685-A(1) of the Commission's Statutes, and Maine Forest Service Rules, Chapters 20 and 27.

Therefore, the MFS staff approves the application submitted by American Forest Management on behalf of Harriet Powers with the following conditions:

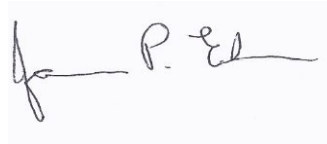
1. The operation is to be confined to the two areas (Blocks A & B) north of the Kennebago Settlement Road as shown in Exhibit 1. The boundaries of the harvest blocks shall be designated by a vertical paint stripe a minimum of 24" in length on the side of the bole of the tree facing the harvest area. The trees used to designate the harvest boundary must not be harvested.
2. The operation will be laid out and supervised by a forester licensed in the State of Maine.
3. A 75 foot no harvest buffer will be established on the ground on both sides of the brook which separates harvest blocks A and B as shown in Exhibit 1.
4. The supervising forester shall submit bi-weekly harvest reports to James Ecker, Regional Enforcement Coordinator, jim.ecker@maine.gov. The reports must outline harvest progress for the duration of the operation.
5. The harvest shall be conducted by a logging contractor selected by the supervising forester and Harriet Powers. The logging contractor must be a Certified Logging Professional.
6. There will be a single yard constructed on the north side of the Kennebago Settlement Road not to exceed 150 feet in length and 60 feet in depth. The construction of roads in the P-FW is prohibited.
7. The harvesting authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit which expires on April 16, 2016. If the harvest is not completed within this time period the permit expires and no additional activities may occur until the MFS grants a permit extension. The MFS may impose additional conditions on a permit extension if it determines that such additional conditions are warranted.

8. All harvesting activities will be done according to the standards in Chapter 27, Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, Section 4 as applicable.
9. All harvesting activities will be done according to the standards for Category 1 clearcuts in Chapter 20, Forest Regeneration & Clearcutting Standards.

If no person requests that the Maine Forest Service review the decision of staff within 30 days of the date of this staff decision, this permit becomes final agency action subject to review of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §§ 11001 *et seq.*, a person aggrieved by an MFS permit decision may appeal the MFS's final action to Superior Court. As part of such an appeal, a person aggrieved may seek judicial review of the components of MFS's final action and permitting decision.

This permit is approved only upon the above stated conditions and remains valid only if the permittee complies with all of these conditions. In addition, any person aggrieved by this decision of the staff may, within 30 days, request that the Maine Forest Service review the decision.

DONE AND DATED AT OLD TOWN, MAINE, THIS 30th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. P. Ecker", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

James P. Ecker - LPF 612
Regional Enforcement Coordinator
Maine Forest Service
Box 415
Old Town, Maine 04468



Powers P-FW Harvest

Revision 11/9/2015

Information	Data	Block	Acres
Owner	Harriet and Basil Powers	A	5
Forester	Bill Haslam	B	11
Town(ship)	Coplin Pkt.		

Symbol	Prescription Layout
	Stream Centerline
	Harvest Boundary
	Powers P-FW Line
	75-foot Stream Buffer

